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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANS AND LOCAL COUNCILS IN HUNGARY

Sandor Igaz

By necessity, in the disorganized period after the war, Communist Party organs, from local basic units all the way up to county committees, took active and direct part in state administration. As a result, their attention was diverted from important party work. With the formation of temporary councils, state administration was actually put into the hands of the workers. Under party direction, the councils can now handle all their governmental functions, and the party organs need not deal with details.

In the relationship between the party and the local council, the party organization gives the political direction necessary to carry out the work of the council and, in the case of certain problems, expedites a solution and directs its execution. The function of the council is to mobilize along governmental lines and under party direction, the largest segment of the working masses for the solution of problems, and to merge all forces in its area for the building of socialism.

An example of proper cooperation between councils and the party is the case of Balmazujvaros in Hajdu-Bihar County, where there was a lag in fall plowing and planting. The county council issued regulations stepping up the work schedule and at the same time, party organs were asked to intensify the people's education program. As a result, the community finished fall planting ahead of schedule.

However, party-council relationships are not always this favorable. The difficulties attending the growth of a system, novelty and inexperience, create obstacles to a better relationship.

The function of party units is to coordinate their activity with that of the councils. Party units should not participate directly in administrative affairs since the councils are essentially government administrative units and not party organs.

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Basic party units, including county committees, are still tampering with the work of the councils, ignoring both their governmental character, and the fact that council organization workers are subject to state discipline. During the past summer, for example, the party secretary of Tolna County, despite the fact that he had received administrative orders to the contrary from the president of the executive committee, called a meeting of all the community clerks of the county because he thought a certain problem of state administration would better be solved in this way. Also, in the midst of recent election proceedings, when the presidents of district executive committees had pressing problems to cope with, in several instances, they were assigned to do half-day house-to-house agitation which naturally kept them from performing their official duties.

Party organs often fail to emphasize to the people the character and authority of the councils. The councils are entirely new units of organization, and the president or the secretary of the council executive committee are not the equivalent of the old municipal judge or municipal clerk. It has been noticed that some political members of county committees are belittling council workers. This is the result of equating the councils to the old administration.

In many instances, party organ secretaries do not participate in the meetings of the council executive committees, or are present only for the discussion of occasional topics. Probably as a consequence of this party district secretaries also are absent from executive committee meetings. The absence of the party secretary, whose function is to fix the political course of the council's work, greatly hinders the functioning of the executive committee

Some faults are also due to the chairmen of executive committees. Often, they do not contact party secretaries and fail to give the necessary information concerning the work of government administration. Uninformed on certain government regulations, the party secretary may give improper directives to the executive committee chairman. For example, during the peace-loan drive, party secretaries in several counties suspended collection of taxes, but the executive committee chairmen did not notify the party secretary that the action was not in conformity with previous government regulations.

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